

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184106
ORIGIN SS-25

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O R 202226Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184106

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, OTRA, LA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO VIETIANE BY MONTGOMERY CODEL

1. CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY IS INTERESTED IN VISITING
VIENTIANE FOLLOWING A VISIT TO HANOI, NOW TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 20-24. MONTGOMERY EXPECTS TO LEAD
A PARTY OF 20 INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 10 CONGRESSMEN. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO SPEND 36 HOURS
IN VIENTIANE. TRAVEL WOULD BE BY SPECIAL PLANE (USAF).

2. WE SOUNDED OUT CHARGE KHAMTANH ON THE VISIT DURING A
COURTESY CALL HE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT JULY 20. KHAMTANH
SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT THAT A VISIT WAS UNDER
CONSIDERATION. HE ADVISED THAT THE CODEL'S PLANNED USE OF
A "SPECIAL PLANE" SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEMS FOR THE LPDR.

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3. YOU SHOULD MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE LAO FOREIGN
MINISTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL, AD-
VISE THE LAO THAT CODEL MONTGOMERY IS INTERESTED IN
VISITING THE LPDR AT THE END OF AUGUST, AND REQUEST MFA'S
REACTION TO THIS IDEA. YOU MIGHT WISH TO INDICATE THE
UTILITY OF SUCH A MISSION AT THIS TIME FOR US/LPDR RELA-
TIONS.

AS YOU KNOW, MONTGOMERY IS KEY CONGRESSMAN ON MIA ISSUE AND
PLAYED HELPFUL ROLE IN EXPLAINING PL 480 DIRECTLY TO OTHER
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

4. WOULD EMBASSY VIENTIANE REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL SUPPORT
FOR BANGKOK FOR A VISIT OF THIS MAGNITUDE? PRESUMABLY
THE CODEL COULD STAY AT THE LANH XANG HOTEL. WOULD YOU
EXPECT THE LAO TO OFFER ANY EXCURSION TO THE COUNTRYSIDE?

VANCE

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